

SN scientist wins prestigious Goodel award

by Grace Janiszewski, Sensors Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Joseph Koesters, a senior scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Sensors Directorate, recently won the Bill Goodel Memorial Award for Distinguished Service at the 2004 Military Sensing Symposia's Specialty Group on Infrared Countermeasures (IRCM) meeting.

Recognized nationally as an expert in countermeasures, Mr. Koesters engineered the proactive Electro-Optical (EO) Warfare investment strategy for Air Force in-house and contract investments and orchestrated the integration of critical ideas into the Pro-active EO Warfare Air Force Science and Technology investment.

Mr. Koesters first became actively involved with infrared countermeasures system development in 1986, while working on flare technology. In 1989, he became the Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratory EO Warfare Group's leading expert in IR expendables. Later, he developed cooperative flare and jammer techniques before becoming a driving force behind the Air Force Laser IRCM Flyout Experiment (LIFE) and Multi-function EO Defense of U.S. Aircraft (MEDUSA) programs since their inceptions. The MEDUSA program supports critical Defense Department warfighter needs for improved situational awareness and proactive threat detection.

The Office of Homeland Security and the Office of the Secretary of Defense invited Mr. Koesters to participate on the "red team" to recommend a plan to protect commercial aircraft from man-portable infrared missiles. He led the Air Force team that studied near term countermeasure options and wrote a report documenting integration issues and recommendations. He currently leads an EO/IRCM panel on the Technical coordinating Program's Electronic Warfare Systems Group. This five-nation partnership is actively collaborating in the areas of threat warning and aircraft countermeasure techniques. Under Mr. Koesters' leadership, AFRL has enhanced development programs by leveraging opportunities in data collection and countermeasure techniques.

Established in 1985, the Bill Goodel Memorial Award for Distinguished Service honors those with outstanding contributions and long, dedicated service to the IRCM community. The Military Symposia Specialty Group on Infrared Countermeasures annual meeting is sponsored by the Infrared Information Analysis Center chartered by the Department of Defense @